MORE ADVENTURES OF THE Trigan Empire

This week another chapter opens in the story of the Trigan Empire, the greatest power on the planet Elekton in the galaxy of Yarna.

PERIC, ELEKTON'S GREATEST SCIENTIST WAS ENGAGED UPON A HIGHLY SECRET PROJECT WHEN...

We're keeping up to schedule. I can see this craft being airborne in a day or so.

Come quickly, sir. Something terrible's happened.

IN GREAT ALARM PERIC RACED TO HIS LABORATORY.

The plans of the interplanetary racer, sir... they're gone. I left Air Marshal Hipzon examining them, sir. Surely he could not have taken them ?

It does not seem likely but, there's only one way to find out.

PERIC HURRIED TO A VIDEOVIEWER...

You provide a bodyguard for Marshall Hipzon, don't you ? Radio your man. I want to know Marshal Hipzon's whereabouts immediately.

I'll get on to it right away, sir !

BUT MARSHAL HIPZON'S BODYGUARD WAS IN NO CONDITION TO TALK TO ANYONE.

By all the stars ! What hit me ? I remember now... Hipzon !

STILL DAZED FROM THE BLOW HIPZON HAD GIVEN HIM, THE BODYGUARD STAGGERED TO HIS FEET.

Fully-fuelled and ready for take-off. And a briefcase full of plans ready for the highest bidder. I never thought it could be so easy.

Emergency ! Emergency ! Calling police headquarters. Hipzon boarding rocket craft at Therican Air Base.

TRIGO WAS CONSULTING A TROUBLED PERIC WHEN THE DISTURBING NEWS ARRIVED.

These vital plans that were stolen... what do they show ?

They are the plans for our new single-seater space fighter craft, Excellency. Should they fall into enemy hands, it would be disaster.

Air Marshal Hipzon has been observed leaving

THE NEWS COULD HARDLY HAVE BEEN WORSE...

It ties up, Excellency. Hipzon had access to the plans. He could have taken them. But I would never have believed him a traitor.

We will suspend judgement until his guilt is proved. Meanwhile...

We will call upon Colonel Kryp. As chief of intelligence, he will pursue Marshal Hipzon from planet to planet, even to the far reaches of the galaxy, until those plans are recovered and Marshal Hipzon is brought to trial.

AT THE TIME, COLONEL KRYP WAS RELAXING AT THE SEASIDE RESORT OF ZOOTHA.

Great sport this.

AFTER THE 'BATTLE'...

Rapiers may be very well for sport. But when it comes to battle my choice is for the most efficient weapons science can devise.

THE SOUND OF A FAMILIAR VOICE MADE THEM LOOK UP.

I was glad to hear you say that, Colonel Kryp. In the mission you are about to undertake you will need all the skills of science, and very much more besides.

GERRY WOO

MORE ADVENTURES OF THE Trigan Empire

Air Marshal Hipzon has fled from Elekton with the plans for a secret spacecraft. Trigo summons his chief of Intelligence, Colonel Kryp.

IN A FEW CRISP WORDS, TRIGO TOLD COLONEL KRYP ABOUT THE DISAPPEARANCE OF HIPZON AND THE PLANS. THEN HE ISSUED HIS ORDERS TO THE COLONEL.

I want you to pursue Hipzon through space until he and those plans are safely back in Trigan City.

Space is a big place, Excellency. Where shall I start ?

Our tracking station picked up Hipzon's craft. It had set a course for Rhodum when they lost it. You may pick up his trail there.

As soon as my craft is ready, Excellency, I'll be after him.

SO BEGAN THE MOST EXCITING ADVENTURE IN COLONEL KRYP'S CAREER.

Flight Z849 calling Rhodum. Request permission to land at Tanzin spacedrome.

Welcome as long as you can come down without a glide path or a homing beacon. There's a war on and we are not fully functional. Be seeing you, if you survive the landing.

IT WAS NOT THE LACK OF TECHNICAL FACILITIES THAT MADE THE LANDING HAZARDOUS. . .

A full-scale war and I've got to land right in the middle of it !

AS KRYP LEFT HIS CRAFT, A RHODAN LANDED AT HIS FEET.

Your space craft ? Is it for sale ?

Sorry, no ! I'd be stranded without it.

Pity ! With that craft, we could drive the Lipzans away from our planet forever.

Has another of my countrymen offered you plans for a craft like mine ?

A Trigan came. But with plans ? How would I know ? I belong to the warrior class. You will find the Upper Ones – the ones with brains – in the House of Science. Ask them !

KRYP WAS WALKING TOWARDS THE HOUSE OF SCIENCE WHEN. . .

If you're going to the House of Science, hop on my back. I'll give you a ride. Give me a rest from fighting.

All right. . . thank you. But take it easy. I've never ridden a Rhodan before.

WITH A JERKY, SWOOPING FLIGHT, THE RHODAN AND ITS PASSENGER TOOK OFF.

What takes you to the House of Science ? Are you a scientist, sir ?

I'm on a mission from Trigan, seeking a colleague from my planet.

THEY LANDED IN THE GROUNDS OF THE HOUSE OF SCIENCE.

Welcome to our planet, sir. One of your colleagues has forestalled you. It's not often we have two visitors from Elekton in the same day.

You must mean Marshal Hipzon. Is he still here ? May I see him ?

KRYP DID SO AND. . .

Aaaaaahhh !

Of course you may see him. Won't you please step this way ?

GERRY WOOD

MORE ADVENTURES OF THE Trigan Empire

Colonel Kryp has been sent from the planet Elekton to search for a traitor, Air Marshal Hipzon, who is offering stolen Trigan plans to the highest bidder. Kryp picks up Hipzon's trail on the planet Rhodum, where he is suddenly attacked.

STAGGERING BACK IN ALARM, KRYP REACHED FOR HIS RAY GUN...

...BUT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY.

He'll be all right. It was only a tranquilizer dart. We'd better get him back to the surgery.

How he got into that room I'll never know.

I apologise for that attack. The Rhodan who flung himself at you is under some strain at the moment.

Strain ? I don't understand.

He is due for a brain transplant as are these fellows here. We are trying to raise the intelligence of the primitive Rhodans by giving them new brains. These have been designed to make them prefer peace to war.

Then you are not in the market for a super warplane ?

No, we are not ! Your Marshal Hipzon came here with the same idea.

Where's Hipzon now ?

In the computer laboratory with our chief technician. Hurry !

Sorry to interrupt, but I'm looking for. . .

The brain is almost fully activated.

Bring in the transplant recipient.

AS KRYP WATCHED, A PATIENT WAS BROUGHT IN ON A TROLLEY.

This is a crucial moment, sir. I must ask you to leave. We have an operation to perform.

But Marshal Hipzon . . .have you seen him ?

Ask the chief technician.

THE TECHNICIAN DID NOT LOOK UP WHEN KRYP ENTERED HIS LABORATORY.

Is that you again, Hipzon ? We don't want your war craft, as I told you a moment ago.

Glad to hear it. I'm after Hipzon. Those plans he offered you are stolen.

Hurry after him, then. He's probably at the space port now.

KRYP RACED FOR THE SPACEPORT.

Hipzon's escaping. . . and in my craft !

WITH A ROAR, THE SPACECRAFT FOUGHT GRAVITY. . .

All right, Marshal Hipzon ! You've stolen the fastest craft, but it won't be long before I'm on your trail again !

GERRY WOOD

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

MORE ADVENTURES OF THE Trigan Empire

Colonel Kryp, the Trigan Empire's chief of Intelligence, is pursuing a traitor, Marshal Hipzon, who escapes from the planet Rhodum in Kryp's own craft.

THE CRAFT IN WHICH MARSHAL HIPZON HAD TRAVELLED TO RHODUM WAS ON ITS PAD, READY FOR LIFT-OFF

Hipzon's stolen the fastest craft and left me with this slower ship. But I'll get him all the same.

ONCE HIS CRAFT WAS SPACEBORNE, KRYP PICKED UP HIPZON ON HIS VIDEO TRACKER.

There he is — heading for Xenon. And that's where I'm going, too.

SOON, THE RED WORLD OF XENON LOOMED LARGE IN KRYP'S PORT HOLE.

The most inhospitable planet in the universe. Nobody here will want to buy Hipzon's stolen plans.

AT THAT MOMENT, HIPZON WAS ON XENON, SOUNDING OUT A POSSIBLE BUYER.

I have the plans for an interplanetary racer. Build a fleet of these and you can defeat all your enemies.

THE ROBOTS' RESPONSE CAME IN FLAT, METALLIC TONES.

You are a traitor. We are programmed to kill traitors.

He must be exterminated. What method shall we use ?

HIPZON DID NOT WAIT FOR THEM TO DECIDE. HE BEGAN LEAVING AS KRYP WAS ARRIVING.

Stop Hipzon !

If you want me, you'll have a race on your hands.

SOON SPACE WAS SIZZLING WITH THE MOST FANTASTIC CHASE OF THE CENTURY.

How about changing course for home, Hipzon ?

Think again ! I know the perfect hideout. Follow me there if you dare.

HIPZON SUDDENLY ZOOMED OUT OF VIEW IN A PLANET'S CLOUD COVER

Goodbye, Kryp ! I don't think we'll ever meet again.

Oh yes we shall. I'll get you — and those plans.

KRYP PLUNGED THROUGH THE CLOUDS ENVELOPING THE GALAXY'S STRANGEST PLANET, AVIOR, AND LANDED — IN A DEAD VOLCANO.

Greetings, beings of Avior. I come in peace. I am seeking a countryman of mine.

Your countryman has gone to our queen. She has the secret of eternal youth.

But we are eternally old.

If you can find the source of eternal youth, we will take you to our queen and your countryman.

But if you fail, you will be fated to become one of us — withered and old on the planet of the doomed.

GERRY WOOD

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

MORE ADVENTURES OF THE Trigan Empire

Colonel Kryp is on the planet Avior in pursuit of a Trigan traitor, Marshal Hipzon. Two strange inhabitants offer to help him on condition that he discovers the secret of everlasting youth, a secret believed to be hidden somewhere on the planet.

KRYP'S MIND RACED. PERIC HAD SPOKEN OF A SUBSTANCE THAT RESTORED YOUTH. WHAT WAS IT ?

Can you tell us how to regain our youth ?

Our chief scientist, Peric, spoke of a substance he had heard of on your planet which transformed age into youth. Utarium – that was it. Do you know where it can be found ?

There are deposits in this direction. Hurry !

Rich deposits. The queen's jewellery is made of it.

You must heat it and inhale the vapour.

WHILE THE BEINGS WATCHED HIM EAGERLY, KRYP BEGAN HEATING THE YOUTH-RESTORING MINERAL.

It is beginning to vaporize. Are you sure you want to go through with this ?

We are sure.

The jeweller's forge is still glowing.

Luckily for us ! I'll chip out some of the blue mineral. That's Utarium ! It will turn to vapour and you must breathe it. Then we'll see what happens.

AS MORE VAPOUR AROSE FROM THE MINERAL, THE TWO BEINGS CREPT FORWARD.

Breathe the vapour deeply. Let it seep right through your life-support systems.

It is doing so already !

I am being renewed !

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT WAS A REVELATION.

It worked. . . it really worked !

And now we shall keep our part of the bargain. Come !

We are your servants now !

We'll catch the Trigan traitor for you. Hurry !

MEANWHILE, HIPZON WAS FINDING THE QUEEN AN EAGER CUSTOMER FOR HIS PLANS.

With these plans you can build a fleet of craft and conquer the galaxy. Shall we fix the price at a million thullars, your majesty ?

Not a high price to pay for universal domination ! I agree !

AS THE QUEEN WAS SPEAKING, THE DOORS OF HER CHAMBER BURST OPEN AND . . .

There he is ! There's the traitor !

There's no escape this time, Hipzon.

AS THE THREE MEN FLUNG THEMSELVES FORWARD, HIPZON GRABBED HIS PLANS AND LEAPT . . .

I must fly ! Sorry I can't stay.

KRYP RAISED HIS PROTON GUN AND CLICKED ON THE ACTIVATOR.

Be warned Hipzon ! Unless you start climbing down, I'm going to shoot — to kill !

GERRY WOOD

Missing Episode

Look & Learn

12 Sept 1978